

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, all those who associate, please send the names. Now, Shri Vaiko.

**Proposed dumping of nuclear waste in the Kudankulam Atomic Plant**

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I draw the attention of this House, through you, to the dangerous, disastrous and destructive consequences of the dumping of nuclear waste in the atomic plant at Kudankulam in my home district Tirunelveli.

I recall the day of 21st November, 1988, when the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made a statement in the other House and this House welcoming the arrival of Mr. Gorbachev, the then head of USSR. But, he just mentioned that we are going to establish an atomic plant without mentioning the location of the plant because he was very clever not to mention the project location.

But, I came to know through sources, therefore, I vehemently opposed it and altercations took place between us. But, I talked about the three main accidents. The first one on 28th March, 1978 in the United States of America and, thereafter, no atomic plant has been set up in the United States of America. And the very same thing happened in USSR after the Chernobyl accident on 26th April, 1986.

These things have to be taken into consideration. Therefore, we should not go for atomic plant. I took Shri George Fernandes for the agitation in Tuticorin also. After these accidents, particularly, in Chernobyl, even today, only disabled children are born.

Belgium, France and Germany have already shut down the atomic plants and the United States has not set-up any atomic plant. But, very shockingly, on March 11, 2011, Fukushima atomic plant disaster took place in which thousands were killed and hundreds of thousands had to flee.

Sir, the fishermen, particularly, thousands of women in Idinthakari near Kudankulam observed an agitation for nearly two years. Adding more salt to the injury, the Government of India announced that a nuclear plant is going to be set-up there, and that they are going to dump the atomic nuclear waste there.

Already, Poovulagin Nanbargal, an NGO, has filed a petition in the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion? ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, the point is, the nuclear waste, if it is dumped, it will destroy our area and it will become a graveyard. There is a Korean film titled 'Pandora', in which 200,000 Koreans acted. If you happen to see the movie, you will be moved to tears. It is not a documentary. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is about explosions...*(Interruptions)*... in the atomic plant. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion, Mr. Vaiko? ...*(Interruptions)*... What is your demand? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAIKO: Therefore, this plant should be abandoned. No nuclear waste should be dumped. This atomic plant should be permanently closed. This is my point.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

#### **Data on OBC in Census 2021**

DR. BANDA PRAKASH (Telangana): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Zero Hour submission. There is no OBC data as on today in the country. Last time it was conducted by the British Government in 1931. After Independence, no data is collected. While accepting the 123rd Constitutional Amendment, hon. Home Minister on that day assured the House that they will collect this year the OBCs' data in the current Census. Even in the same month, on 31st August, the hon. Home Minister gave a Press statement that this year, they will definitely conduct the Census. Pre-test of the Census is going on from 12th August. As on today, there are no instructions for the Registrar General of India on Other Backward Classes' data. In the form also, which they have prepared, there is no place for OBC. I request the hon. Ministers, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, to kindly bring it to the notice of the Home Minister. Please see to it that before 12th, the Cabinet takes a decision to issue necessary instructions for collecting the data on the OBCs in the Census, because that was the assurance given on the floor of the Rajya Sabha. I once again request the hon. Chairman, as it was the assurance, kindly instruct the hon. Minister to take up whatever was the assurance given to the House. That should be brought to the notice of the hon. Minister.